

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1418

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR SOPN CA

SUBJECT US-CANADA RELATIONS - MEDIA COMMENT

1. IN EDITORIAL CAPTIONED "CANADA AND THE USA", ST. JOHN S "EVENING TELEGRAM" (7/29/76) LISTED VARIOUS GROUPS AND SPOKESMEN WHO, IN RECENT MONTHS, HAVE HAD OCCASION TO COMMENT ON CURRENT STATE AND TREND OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND CANADA. IN ATTEMPTING GIVE THUMBNAIL OUTLINES OF WHAT WAS SAID BY COMMENTATORS ON BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, EDITORIAL GROSSLY OVERSIMPLIFIES AND THEREBY GROSSLY DISTORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, NOTE ONE-SENTENCE SUMMARY OF IOMMENTS MADE IN RECENT MONTHS BY AMBASSADORS PORTER AND ENDERS:

QUOTE AT THE SAME TIME, SPECIAL SPOKESMEN, E.G. THE FORMER AND CURRENT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA, STATED SOMEWHAT BLUNTLY THAT THE U.S. IS NOT AT ALL PLEASED ABOUT THE DIRECTION CANADA APPEARS TO BE GOING, IN PURSUIT OF THE EXERCISE OF ITS SO-CALLED THIRD OPTION. UNQUOTE.

2. CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH STATES:

QUOTE. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ALLAN MACEACHEN, COMMENTING ON THIS LATEST MANIFESTATION OF AMERICAN "CONCERN" SAYS HE SEES NOTHING UNHEALTHY ABOUT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FACT THAT THERE ARE STRESSES AND STRAINS IN CANADIAN-

AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS. WHAT THE AMERICANS MUST
REALIZE, ESPECIALLY IN THEIR BICENTENNIAL YEAR, IS
THAT THE CANADA OF 1976 IS FAR FROM THE CANADA OF
1776, AND EVEN 1876, AND THE SOONER THE FORMER
TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT, THE SOONER THESE STRAINS CAN
BE ELIMINATED. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: DIGESTS OF MACEACHEN STATEMENT WERE HEARD ON
CBC HERE BUT COVERAGE OF HIS STATEMENT IN PRESS HAS NOT BEEN
NOTED EXCEPT AS NOTED ABOVE IN THIS EDITORIAL. ALTHOUGH
EDITORIAL DOES NOT MAKE IT CLEAR, WE ASSUME FINAL (AND
UNCHARACTERISTICALLY WASPISH) SENTENCE WAS AUTHORED BY
"EVENING TELEGRAM" AND NOT BY MACEACHEN. POUCHING
EDITORIAL OTTAWA AND EUR/CAN.

MOORE

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